

**MINUTES**  
**JOINT BOARDS OF MAYOR AND BURGESSES**  
**AND BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING – 2015/2016 FISCAL BUDGET**  
**MAY 11, 2015**  
**CITY HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

1. Mayor Robert A. Mezzo declared the public hearing open at **6:30 p.m.** with the following in attendance:

**BURGESSES:**

T. K. Rossi	R. Neth, absent
M. Bronko	A. Olbrys
R. Burns	P. Scully, Sr.
C. Ernsky, left 8:32 p.m.	R. Vitale
L. Jackson	

**PRESS:**

E. Gugliotti  
P. Singley

**RESIDENTS:**

Forty-one

**FINANCE BOARD:**

A. Bottinick, arr. 6:36 p.m.	J. Savarese
J. Branco Sampaio	D. Scinto
A. Campbell, absent	D. Sheridan, Jr.
K. Kiernan, left 8:30 p.m.	S. Stirk, arr. 7:06 p.m.
A. Pistarelli	

**ALTERNATES:**

R. Burke  
W. McAllister, absent  
D. Wisniewski

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

S. Locke, School Superintendent  
J. Lawlor, Human Resources Director

K. Hanks, Fire Chief  
R. Butler, Controller

**OTHERS:**

C. Montini, Assistant School Superintendent  
D. Neth-Kunin, Board of Education  
B. Rizk, Assistant Business Manager  
J. Hunt, Hillside Intermediate School  
J. LaCharity, Police Department  
B.J. Forlenzo, Blight Citation Hearing Board  
M. Katra, Republican Registrar  
J. Miller, Howard Whittemore Library Director

S. Bronko, NVHD  
J. Taf, Housing Authority  
J. Scully, Board of Education  
A. Merly, BOE IT Director  
S. Hunt, Police Sergeant  
B. Hendrickson, CHMS  
D. Heller, BOE Chairman

2. Mayor Mezzo led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. Mayor Mezzo welcomed everyone to the public hearing and acknowledged all present from the Board of Mayor and Burgesses, Board of Finance, the Controller, and Borough Clerk.
4. Mayor Mezzo introduced the Chairwoman of the Board of Finance, Diane Scinto who stated the purpose of the public hearing and gave the ground rules for conducting the hearing and also stated, for the record, that the hearing was being recorded legally. Chairwoman Scinto took comments from the public after they stated their name and address.

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

He thanked Superintendent Locke for providing details on the budget to the public. More than in the past which was the bottom line amount. Need to change the upward spending trend in the school budget.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**W. Hulbert – 71 Osborne Road**

Mayor's raise was increased for how many years and how much? Why was the part-time custodian's pay increased? Can we delay the new computer system in the Assessor's Office until next year to save on the overtime?

**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

He asked about retroactive raises for the mayor and burgesses. Why not have a temporary worker or the software vendor input data for the new software upgrade in the Assessor's Office? There has been no development with the NEDC. The last estimated wage increases were in the 2013/2014 budget. Why so soon now? It is a significant salary increase for union workers.

**J. Kelley – 144 Johnson Street**

He is retired. There is no increase in his pension. Social Security gave him a small increase then took it back due to an increase in healthcare costs. Tell fixed income people where to find the money for the increase in taxes. There is a lack of people here tonight. People said "Why bother? They will do what they want anyways."

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

The town went on a buying binge buying the property on Andrew Mountain, the General DataComm building, and Parcel C. We were told they were bought so we can control what is being done on these properties. Nothing is being done. Where is the plan for development? Keep a piece of Parcel C for a parking lot for town hall instead of giving the land away.

**P. Ucci – 45 Neagle Street**

He has a background in finance. He moved to Naugatuck eight years ago because the taxes were lower. It is getting tougher and tougher to make ends meet with his growing family. Tougher to pay his car and house taxes. He made two financial mistakes, buying in 2007 and moving to Naugatuck.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**W. Hulbert – 71 Osborne Road**

Do we need a copier in the Fire Department? Can't they walk across the street and use the one in the town hall? Can't we do the pump and ladder testing in-house? How many vehicles are we buying for the Police Department? Is there still a legal issue with the ambulance? Is it state mandated that we have an Emergency Management Director?

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**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

He thinks something is going on with the ambulance situation and would like to know what it is. He is looking for the board to be honest. He is requesting an update once or twice a year from the board on the ambulance situation.

**S. Behlman, Jr. – 198 Beacon Manor Road**

Why is there an increase for the Eastside Firehouse? Can town employees repair the roof leak?

**E. Fennell – 10 Parkman Place**

Why did the ammunition increase so much?

**J. Kelley – 144 Johnson Street**

Does the town own the General DataComm building? Are you really going to put low income housing in that project?

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

The sewer should be a pay per use service. If you use it then you pay. To make money we shouldn't service any outside towns. If the town doesn't change soon, some citizens will make you change.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**

None

**PUBLIC WORKS**

None

**DEBT**

None

**PENSIONS**

None

**INSURANCE**

None

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**J. Miller – 385 Park Avenue – Howard Whittemore Library Director**

Thanked the board for providing \$582,000 to the library. She read two quotes from notables regarding the importance of libraries.

**S. Behlman, Jr. – 198 Beacon Manor Road**

Why did Northwest CT Public Safety Communications Center increase so much?

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**P. Scalisi – 40 Sheffield Lane**

Thanked the board for all they do. He spoke positively about the library. When Art6 is complete, the library will be the hub of the art center. Need to support the library.

**M. Yannarella – Head of Youth Services at the Library**

He works at the library. The amount of patrons using the library has increased over the past year. There has been a strong tradition in Naugatuck of supporting the library. He asked the board to support that tradition.

**NEDC**

**A. Wargo – 1058 Rubber Avenue**

We spent all this money for economic development and where is the plan? Need more parking for town hall. Set aside some land for parking at town hall. Cut the budget, we can't afford it. Don't spend what you don't have.

**GENERAL**

**E. Fennell – 10 Parkman Place**

He thinks it's a little premature that the railroad station line item has a zero in the budget. We have not signed a deal yet. He asked if the upkeep of the building could be handled in the budget if the sale doesn't go through.

**RESERVE FUND**

**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

Is the fairway mower and sand pro for the golf course? Is there a breakdown of the golf course? IT virtualization and the Police Department, any push to combine the two?

**CONTINGENCY**

None

**REVENUES**

**M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street**

Where will the "deeper cuts" come from in the budget?

5. Chairwoman Scinto declared the public hearing closed at **8:56 p.m.**

**A digital recording of this meeting is available in the office of the Borough Clerk for further review.**

**Attest:**

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Nancy K. DiMeo  
Borough Clerk